



Virginia Green Conference Centers



Cove Ridge Center

Natural Tunnel State Park, Duffield



"The Cove Ridge Center is a multipurpose conference facility, providing meeting space and lodging in a beautiful, natural setting."

Green Statement: "As a facility in a state park, we felt it was our responsibility to protect and preserve the natural resources to the best of our ability, while still providing quality service to our visitors."

Green Activities



Minimization of Disposable Food Service Products. All conference centers are required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, you are encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items made from bio-based materials, renewable materials
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content
- Use disposable foodservice items that are recyclable



Recycling and Waste Reduction. All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment
- Clearly marked recycling bins for aluminum, metal and plastic located throughout the center and lodging facilities
kitchen (or meetings/events)
- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste
- Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
dining room (or meetings/events)
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles
restrooms
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
office/purchasing
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory & effective labeling systems
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials

- Use electronic correspondence and forms
building and grounds
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping



Water Conservation. The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have:
 - high efficiency dishwashers
 - low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
 - low flow toilets
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first) and use microfiber technology mops



Energy Conservation. The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Use natural lighting
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances



Green Events Package. Virginia Green conference centers must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.



For more information on **Cove Ridge Center**, see www.coveridge.com or contact **Cove Ridge Director** at coveridge@dcr.virginia.gov or **276-940-2696**.

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The program has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism; these practices are the minimum requirements for participation in the program, but encourages participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations.

For more information on the **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen/homepage.html or go to www.virginiagreentravel.org

